

flesh!" Is it possible? Yes, he who was in the beginning with God, he who created all things, he who was himself God, was made flesh. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." To the same effect is the declaration of Paul, "Great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh."

Such then is the teaching of the Word on this important subject. And indeed it seems to me so distinct and emphatic that while we may reject it we can scarcely misunderstand it. It is only the spirit of proud, human unbelief that will ask, "How can these things be? This is a hard saying who can hear it?" For while the incarnation is a mystery which infinitely transcends the highest exercise of reason, yet it is not contrary to reason. God as the great Creator must of necessity support and sustain, animate and influence our nature, as he does the nature of every being dependent on him. And we can see no contradiction in supposing that this connection may become closer and more intimate until it reaches the highest possible union.

It is true we cannot understand the manner in which the Divine and human natures are united in the person of the Christ. This is a mystery to the most gifted man, and perhaps to the highest angel. In receiving the truth, however, God does not require us to believe *how* the two natures are brought into union. He requires us only to believe the fact that such a union *has* taken place. And while the *nature* of the union remains a mystery, the *fact* of it is a plain and palpable thing, patent even to the simplest understanding.

We, as followers of the Christ, believe in the advent of God in Jesus. We trust in Christ as a Divine person; for as God he is "mighty to save." We turn to him as the perfect man; for as man he is bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; our friend, brother, Redeemer. We have confidence in him as both God and man, in two distinct natures, but one blessed and glorious person, because as the God-man he is all our salvation and all our desire.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all-gracious King;
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

SOME men will never trust God as long as they can do anything else.

CHRISTMAS.

CLARENCE M'BRIDE.

What is Christmas? Christmas we are told is a day held sacred by the Christian nation as the day in which Christ was born in Bethlehem, and as the day on which there came a Saviour into the world "not to condemn the world but to save that which was lost." We have the birthdays of great noblemen, and celebration days of our country, but what are they when compared to the birth of a Redeemer who came to suffer for our sins. His coming was a necessity, for the world was greatly in need of a determined Saviour, and the world to-day stands greatly in need of such determined and ingenious men as Jesus, who never feel discouraged with the good work of the Bible.

There is no story that has ever been written that is so beautiful or so wonderful as the story about Jesus. He was unlike anybody else. In character his life was one of perfect holiness; he never did things to please himself, else he would not have said "I came, not to do mine own will, but the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Again we notice that the heart of Jesus was always full of pity, gentleness and love. For pity he suffered more than any other man that has ever entered the world. He spoke in gentle tones—never harsh and boisterous—and his commands were obeyed by the least of his followers. He loved as none had ever loved before; it was He who told us to love our enemies and "love thy neighbor as thyself." And when at the point of death on the cruel cross at the hands of the soldiers, did he lift his eyes and cry unto heaven, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." I wish there was more of that love in our hearts to-day, as we think of our example.

The story of Jesus never grows dim in the hearts of old or young people, and we wonder why He should leave his home on high, where He was king of heaven and a joy among the angels, and come down to this world of sin and great wickedness. You might say maybe he didn't know the result of his coming and of the cruelties he would receive at the hands of his people. Ah, yes, but he did know the results, and not only did He know them, but an old prophet named Simeon, who had been promised of God that he should see Jesus, also knew of his death, and he prophesied it when Christ was only six weeks old, when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the high priest to be blessed, he told her that one day she would have such great sorrow that it would be like a sword piercing her heart. You ask the question,

When did she feel that way? There came a time about thirty-three years later when he was convicted by his own race of people, was tried and nailed to the cross, there is where her sorrow was.

Again we notice that God was willing to spare his only beloved son. We prove this by knowing that God sent him into the world to redeem sinners, and we also read that "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

You have all read the story of a great warrior, who thought himself conqueror of the world and even wanted a mortal combat with God, went to a lonely spot and lifting up his voice and cried aloud to challenge God, and in reply, a little piece of paper was observed fluttering in the air and fell directly at his feet, and when he picked it up it read thus, "God is love." Does this not prove that God loves us and that he was willing that our sins should be atoned for? Therefore he sent the Savior into the world to suffer for our sins.

Should we not celebrate the birth of such a heroic man as Jesus was in the time of His life here on earth?

Cold must be the heart that has no response to this great Christmas sentiment, barren indeed the house into which no recognition of the Christ child enters, no thought of that inestimable gift that has made all mankind brethren. To the poorest and humblest of us this Christmas message speaks. The wise men required the guiding of a star, but to the watching shepherds the angel spoke face to face, and there is a Christmas sentiment in all these gay streets and jostling crowds, that the wise men of our town are not always the first to understand.

In a few days more the evergreens will have faded, and we shall be going about our business with all the stern realities of the new year before us. But we shall carry something over from this great holiday that will not fade if we care to keep it green, a new impulse of faith and love that will keep the world still growing brighter and better because of Christmas day.

West Alexandria, O.

Christmas bells, chime out triumphant,
Over land and over sea!
Send your happy tidings floating
On sweet waves of melody;
Softly tell your tender story,
O'er and o'er and o'er again,
Glory in the highest, glory,
Peace on earth, good-will to men.

THERE is such a thing as trying to live on blessings and starving to death.